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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Activity in the Area of the First Gds Mecz Army		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		PREPARED	9 March 1955
REFERENCES			
PAGES	6	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			25X1

1. The following observations were made in Grimma post:

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At 0600 on 14 February. A truck and armored personnel carrier column drove out of town.

at 0700: A second column including 1 radio armored personnel carrier and trucks followed. The two columns presumably moved toward Oschatz. The following vehicles were observed when the unit returned between 1900 and 2000 on 15 February:

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4 armored personnel carriers  
1 armored scout car  
4 armored trucks  
7 radio trucks  
13 trucks  
1 truck towing a field kitchen  
2 motorcycles.

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At 1300 on 15 February, the following engineer trucks left Grimma empty and returned carrying one steel pontoon each at 1600:

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The engineer units engaged in small exercises which involved the above mentioned trucks.

At 1030 on 16 February, a column of 7 tank trucks including entered the town from the direction of Oberer Bahnhof.<sup>1</sup>

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2. On 14 February 1955, the Flak Kaserne [ ] in Leipzig-Schoenau quartered approximately 1,000 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The kaserne was not occupied to capacity. From 30 to 40 soldiers wearing gas masks marched out of the installation.

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3. On 19 February 1955, the Flak Kaserne in Leipzig-Schoenau still quartered approximately 1,200 soldiers. About 75 percent of them wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or motor transport insignia and 25 percent black-bordered crimson epaulets including some with artillery insignia. The following observations were made at the kaserne:

On 7 February: 2 x 85-mm AA guns were parked in the yard. Twelve soldiers practiced with 2 x 57-mm AT guns on Kirschberg hill. Another ~~about~~ 60 soldiers engaged in firing practice or training with telephone sets.

On 15 February: A total of 11 M-13 rocket launchers and 3 trucks were lined up in a field northeast of the kaserne in the following order:

1 truck and 4 M-13 rocket launchers and after an interval of about 50 meters another truck and 4 rocket launchers and after another interval of 50 meters the last truck and 3 rocket launchers.

Rocket launchers [ ]

[ ] all with a red star emblem, were identified.

Each of the rocket launchers carried the driver, an assistant driver and 4 soldiers, while each of the trucks carried about 10 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and were equipped with a rifle, submachine gun, battery commander's telephone and a range finder.

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4. On 13 February 1955, the Kaserne Leipzig-Heiterblick [ ] quartered 1,000 to 1,200 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia. The installation was occupied to capacity. Groups of up to 30 soldiers trained with infantry weapons.

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Motor vehicles seen in traffic to and from the kaserne. [ ]

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5. On 14 February 1955, the Panzer Kaserne [ ] in Borna still quartered about 1,000 to 1,200 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The installation was occupied to capacity. Motor vehicles [ ] were seen at the kaserne.

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6. On 1 and 18 February 1955, the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne [ ] in Riesa was occupied by an estimated 1,200 soldiers. Most of them wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia and some black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia.

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The following observations were made at the kaserne:

At 1400 on 4 February: 2 T-34 tanks [ ] drove toward Zeithain.

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at 2130 on 5 February: 15 medium T-34s, 20 to 25 trucks and 1 M-13 rocket launcher apparently entered the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne.

At 1430 on 9 February: 1 T-34 tank towing a damaged T-34 entered the kaserne.

At 1430 on 12 February: A column of 6 tank trucks [ ] entered the installation.

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7. During the same period, the Mudra Kaserne [ ] in Riesa quartered 1,000 to 1,200 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia.

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On 8 February, approximately 25 trucks were lined up in the yard in front of the garage north of gate No 6. About 60 soldiers did maintenance work.

8. Between 0200 and 0400 during the night of 4 February 1955, the following column presumably coming from Oschatz or Leisnig moved through town and proceeded toward Zeithain:

1 armored half-track vehicle [ ] with twin-barreled machine gun, 6 medium T-34s [ ] and 4 radio trucks.

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On 4 February, a shipment of 16 flatcars with sideracks carrying approximately 20 trucks with equipment and 4 boxcars with approximately 150 soldiers passed through Riesa and proceeded toward Zeithain.

At 0630 on 7 February: 5 T-34 tanks, presumably from the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne, drove through town and went toward Riesa.

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10. The following observations were made at the Zeithain field training grounds in the Riesa post:

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At 0700 on 10 February: Imprints of tank tracks indicated that 2 T-54 (?) tanks went from the training grounds to the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne in Riesa during the night.

At about 1000 on 15 February: T-34/85 tank [ ] and T-34 tank [ ] went from Camp Zeithain [ ] toward Oschatz.

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At about 1130: 3 T-54 (?) tanks, 2 T-34/85 tanks including [ ] and JS tank [ ] were parked at the tank firing range east of the main camp. Six or seven T-54 (?) tanks were lined up at the eastern edge of the main camp. Eleven T-34/85 tanks covered with canvas were parked in front of the tank garages. Groups of four of ~~five~~ soldiers with red-

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bordered black epaulets practiced with 3 x 122-mm field howitzers in front of the gun sheds along the southern edge of the main camp.

On 10 February: 10 to 12 soldiers practiced with 85-mm AA guns in the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa.

At about 1000 on 17 February: A column including 6 radio trucks [redacted] 4 four-wheel armored personnel carriers including [redacted] and armored personnel carrier [redacted] were seen en route from Riesa toward Grossenhain.

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At 1500 on 18 February: 2 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen in a regular freight train at the Risa railroad station. The train left toward Oschatz.

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At 1600: A column with the following vehicles drove from the training ground toward Riesa:

2 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns [redacted]  
2 trucks [redacted] and carrying 8 to 10 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia  
1 four-wheel armored personnel carrier No 796 with twin-barreled machine gun.

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11.

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12. During the period from 22 January to 5 February 1955, the Nachrichten Schule [redacted] in Koenigsbrueck quartered approximately 700 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Sixty percent of the troops wore tank insignia, 15 percent motor transport insignia, 5 percent signal insignia and the rest had no insignia.

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At about 0900 on 2 February, T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] left the kaserne and went toward Bohra. The tanks were followed by trucks [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] armored personnel carrier [REDACTED]  
2 other trucks including [REDACTED] towing an AA gun of about 57 mm and  
2 trucks with AA machine guns.

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13. During the same period, 4 x 152-mm field howitzers were almost daily seen parked in Neues Lager [REDACTED] at Koenigsbrueck. The following vehicles were identified in traffic to and from the kaserne:

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T-34/85 tank No 808, armored personnel carrier [REDACTED] four-wheel  
armored personnel carriers [REDACTED] and trucks [REDACTED].

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14. The following observations were made at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station:

At 1945 on 30 January 1955: 6 tank trucks, 2 ambulances, 1 salvage tank, and 5 trucks [REDACTED] were entrained.

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Between 1000 and 1100 on 31 January: The following materiel and soldiers were entrained at Bahnhof Koenigsbrueck-West:

10 trucks [REDACTED] and towing 122 mm field howitzers  
12 four-wheel and six-wheel armored personnel carriers  
8 to 10 trucks  
1 ambulance  
1 workshop truck  
1 radio truck  
soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets onto 10 boxcars.

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At about 0930 on 2 February: 6 prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns and 4 trucks with covered numbers were entrained at Bahnhof Koenigsbrueck-West.

At 0945: 1 armored personnel carrier towing a 57-mm AT gun was seen at the same railroad station,

15. The following movements were observed in the town area of Koenigsbrueck:

At about 0900 on 3 February: 3 tank trucks [REDACTED] drove through the town.

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At about 0900 on 4 February: The following vehicles left Koenigsbrueck toward Dresden:

1 truck towing a 57-mm AT gun  
1 truck towing a 85-mm AT gun  
1 truck towing a field kitchen  
1 workshop truck and truck [REDACTED]

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At 1000: Approximately 15 driver school trucks carrying about 6 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets each (a few wore motor transport insignia) drove from Koenigsbrueck to Lausnitz and back to Koenigsbrueck. [REDACTED]

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16. Between 10 and 19 February 1955, the Nachrichten Schule in Koenigsbrueck quartered about 700 to 800 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or motor transport insignia. Approximately 50 tanks including two thirds of type T-34 and one third type Stalin belong to the kaserne. Prior to 15 February, the kaserne was occupied only lightly. Since no entrainments were observed, it appeared that the bulk of the soldiers moved out for short-term exercises or occupied winter quarters at the

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Koenigsbrueck troop training grounds for a short period. During daytime and also at night, five T-34 tanks were parked in a shed in the "Aue".

17. During the same period, the Alte Lager [ ] in Koenigsbrueck quartered a guard detail of approximately 50 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On some of the days, 2 or 3 tank trucks drove to the installation. The Neue Lager [ ] in Koenigsbrueck was still occupied as was observed previously.

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[ ] During the period of observation, artillery fire of medium caliber lasting for an hour was heard both day and night from the troop training grounds.

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1. [ ] Comment. There were apparently no changes of occupation at the Grimma post. The observation of equipment confirms the 133th Gds Engr Bn of the 8th Gds Mecz Div in the Elsner Kaserne in Grimma [ ].
2. [ ] Comment. No changes were determined at the Leipzig post. The units of the 8th Gds Mecz Div engaged in normal training activity. The way the 11 rocket launchers of the 9th Gds RL Regt/XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps/Eighth Gds Army were lined up is definite indication about the organization of the rocket launcher battalion with 12 guns each to a battalion (4 to each battery).
3. [ ] Comment. Apparently no changes at the Borna post.
4. [ ] Comment. There was normal training activity in the area of the 9th Tank Div and no essential changes seem to have taken place. There was an intensive employment of tank firing details.
5. [ ] Comment. Normal training activity was conducted in the area of the 11th Gds Tank Div. The report indicates no significant changes.

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